

CUSCUTA INDECORA (CONVOLVULACEAE)  
NEW FOR CANADA

Mihai Costea<sup>1</sup>

Department of Plant Agriculture  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2W1, CANADA  
coste\_amihai@hotmail.com

François J. Tardif

Department of Plant Agriculture  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2W1, CANADA  
ftardif@uoguelph.ca

Vernon L. Harms

W.P. Fraser Herbarium  
Department of Plant Sciences  
University of Saskatchewan,  
51 Campus Dr., Saskatoon  
Saskatchewan, S7N 5A8, CANADA  
vharms@shaw.ca

*Cuscuta indecora* Choisy is frequent in southern U.S.A. (Yuncker 1932, 1965) and extends northward to Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana and Idaho (USDA NRCS 2004). The species also occurs in Mexico, Central and South America (Yuncker 1932, 1965). We are reporting here the first record of this species for southern Saskatchewan, Canada. Its presence in the Canadian Provinces adjacent to its northern range was to be expected, and further floristic research may reveal its occurrence in southern Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario. Although *C. indecora* has definite weedy tendencies (Parker & Riches 1993), taking into account the natural habitats it was found in, the species may be considered native to southern Canada as well. The species was cultivated experimentally in Ontario and Alberta (vouchers at DAO and ALTA, respectively), but it has never spread (see also Crins & Ford 1988). The host range of *C. indecora* is wide, including numerous herbaceous and woody plants (Yuncker 1965).

*Cuscuta indecora* and *C. coryli* Engelm from subsection *Indecorae* Yuncker are probably sister species (Costea et al. unpublished). *Cuscuta coryli* in Canada, is rare in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Québec (Argus & Pryer 1990). Both species have in common the fleshy, papillate flowers with corolla lobes acute and inflexed. *Cuscuta indecora* differs from *C. coryli* mainly through the 5-merous flowers, 2–5 mm long, having usually large and abundantly fringed intrastaminal scales. *Cuscuta coryli* has flowers commonly 4-merous, ca. 2 mm long, and infrastaminal scales are reduced to winged or toothed ridges. Descriptions, identification keys and iconography can be found in Yuncker (1932, 1965).

Voucher specimens: **CANADA. Saskatchewan. District of Rosetown-Biggar:** Canton Bernard, ca 12 mi SE of Demaine, ca. 50° 40' N, 107° 20' W, battures sablonneuses de la rivière Saskatchewan du Sud, 30

<sup>1</sup>Corresponding author.

Jul 1956. *B. Boivin et al. H648* (SASK- 2 collections; ALTA, DAO, MT, NY); Crooked Lake Provincial Park, 50° 35' N, 102° 40' W, in bog on sow thistle and sunflower. 12 Aug 1976. *VJ Huffen s.n.* (SASK).

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